Chairman: K. Van Dyck

All the Member States were present except Malta, which was represented by the United Kingdom, and Lithuania, which was represented by Greece. Estonia was also absent but was not represented.


   Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) started in 2006 with the aim of training officials from Member States and non-EU countries involved in verifying compliance with EU food and feed law, animal health and welfare rules and plant health regulations. Particular attention has been paid to participants from developing countries. From its launch until 2008, approximately 8,500 participants from more than 100 countries attended BTSF courses and seminars. BTSF was appreciated by all participants and competent authorities. However, after its pilot phase and following an intermediate assessment launched during 2008, the time had come to think about how to develop its potential in order to meet some of the growing challenges. These include increasing demand for high-quality training, a demand-driven approach, clearer identification of priorities and target audiences and better dissemination and evaluation. This strategy paper focuses on each of these challenges and attempts to identify possible action, in the short, medium and long term, to respond to them.

EFSA requests for information and possible endorsement

2. **Request for using 2008 CSR monitoring data on *Salmonella* in laying hen flocks and for using 2004-2005 Baseline survey (BS) data on *Salmonella* in laying hens holdings, by a WG set up by the BIOHAZ Panel (see item 4 of the 16 September 2009 meeting of the SCFCAH)**

   In response to the need for clarification of the request to use the above-mentioned data, an EFSA representative gave a presentation on EFSA’s organisational structure and on a number of factors concerning confidentiality within the authority. He highlighted that EFSA was committed to independence and transparency, which were guaranteed by its experts who were selected on the basis of their scientific excellence and did not represent the views of any particular Member State, institution or company. EFSA’s experts signed a declaration of confidentiality imposing an obligation not to divulge any information acquired in the course of their activities in EFSA (documents, data and oral or written discussions). Moreover, he ensured the Committee that the data requested would be presented anonymously and would be used neither to evaluate nor to compare performance or targets between Member States.
The majority of the Member States found the arguments presented by EFSA convincing and gave their approval for using all the data requested, namely:

- 2008 CSR monitoring data on *Salmonella* in laying hen flocks;
- 2004-2005 baseline survey (BS) data on *Salmonella* in laying hens holdings;
- EU baseline survey on *Salmonella* in slaughter and in breeding pigs, on *Campylobacter* in broiler flocks and on *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in broiler carcasses;
- CSR data on *Campylobacter* in broilers and broiler meat.

3. **Request for data availability from EU baseline survey on *Salmonella* in slaughter and in breeding pigs, and on *Campylobacter* in broiler flocks and on *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in broiler carcasses**

   See item 2.

3A. **Request for data availability from CSR on Campylobacter in broilers and broiler meat**

   See item 2.


As required by Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003, EFSA had been consulted on setting a permanent Community target for breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus*. Accordingly, on 26 March 2009, the Panel on Biological Hazards adopted, in response to a request from the European Commission, a Scientific Opinion on quantitative estimation of the impact of setting a new target for the reduction of *Salmonella* in breeding hens of *Gallus gallus*\(^1\). It concluded that *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* had the greatest potential for transmission from breeding hens to their progeny in the broiler meat and egg-layer chains and that EU control measures for these two serotypes in breeding hens were expected to contribute to controlling *Salmonella* infections in production stock and to reduce human health risks from poultry. The same Scientific Opinion also stated that the marginal benefits of additional EU-wide control for other serotypes in breeders were relatively small: they were less frequently associated with human illness and had less potential for vertical transmission. In order to measure progress towards achieving the Community target, provision must be made for repeated sampling of breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus*.

Most of the SCFCAH delegates expressed strong support for the document, though some suggested deleting footnote 5. Having taken into account the results of the discussion, the Commission redrafted the Regulation and revision 5 of the document was put to a vote.

**Vote:** Favourable opinion by qualified majority (in favour: 312 votes, abstentions: 29 votes, absent: 4 votes).

\(^1\) The EFSA Journal (2009) 1036, 1-68.

At the SCFCAH meeting on 15 July 2009, a draft Commission Regulation was put to a technical vote and, after unanimous endorsement, was sent for SPS consultation. The plan was to put the proposal to a final vote at the next meeting of the SCFCAH in November 2009.


Item withdrawn from the agenda.


The purpose of this proposal was to allocate a financial contribution for 2010 to the Community reference laboratory for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. Given that the inter-service consultation on this draft Decision had not yet been completed, the proposal would not be put to a vote until 28 October. SCFCAH delegates were asked to give appropriate instructions to their experts who would be attending the meeting on that date.


The purpose of this Regulation was to amend certain implementing measures for live bivalve molluscs in the light of new scientific evidence, in particular as regards methods for detecting marine biotoxins. The Commission official went through the document and explained the amendments made to the text since the last meeting of the Standing Committee. He highlighted that the changes were purely technical and did not affect the substance of the Regulation.

The plan was to put the proposal to a technical vote at the November SCFCAH meeting. The definitive vote would take place in either May or June 2010.

Since the accession of Romania, the number of establishments complying with the structural requirements of Regulations (EC) No 852/2004 and No 853/2004 had increased to 80%. However, some establishments were still undergoing the structural improvements necessary in order to comply with those requirements. The purpose of this proposal was to grant Romania a further transition period of twenty-four months for certain meat establishments, fishery products establishments, egg and cold stores to comply with the structural requirements of Regulations (EC) No 852/2004 and No 853/2004. The situation in the meat, eggs and fishery products sectors and cold stores in Romania should be reviewed before the end of that period. Romania should therefore submit annual reports to the Commission on progress with upgrading those establishments. The Regulation would apply retroactively in order to avoid legal uncertainty.

Given that the proposal was due to be put to a vote at the next meeting of the Standing Committee in November, delegates were asked to discuss the issue with their experts and to submit their comments to the Commission as soon as possible.

Miscellaneous

- **OAB Bulgaria**

  At the request of Bulgaria, the Commission clarified the notification procedure for primary products given to final consumers.

- **Maduramicin in eggs and legislation on food and feed**

  Following the problems with Maduramicin in eggs and with legislation on food and feed, both of which were mentioned at the previous meeting of the Standing Committee, Slovenia asked the Commission about the work in progress with a view to amending Regulation (EC) No 1024/2009. In answer the Commission informed the Member States that this issue was foreseen to be discussed during the Standing Committee Meeting on Animal Nutrition on 28 October 2009.

- **Imports of fishery products from Indonesia**

  The German delegation asked whether the Commission intends to lift the measures foreseen by Decision 2006/236/EC. The Commission replied that the number of findings of heavy metals in fishery products exceeding Community limits decreased and in 2009 it was only one RASFF notification. However, before the measure can be lifted the Indonesian Competent Authority needs to provide guarantees. Upon receipt of the above-mentioned guarantees the Commission will report back on this issue.

Eric Pondelet
Director
(Signed)